

Well, Mr. Speaker, three years later, the FCC has failed to act and we need to move forward. Let us get the FCC to act today. This bill will provide a great nudge. The Stearns-Frost-Oxley bill will revise the duopoly rules to allow UHF-VHF ownership combinations in the same local market and to allow UHF-VHF combinations in separate local markets that may have overlapping coverage contours, such as in the Washington, D.C. and Baltimore markets. This bill will also permanently grandfather all LMAs.

But, Mr. Speaker, within this bill, it still allows the FCC to have unusual powers. If the applicant demonstrates to the satisfaction of the commission that permitting such ownership, operation, or control will not significantly harm competition or will not significantly harm the preservation of the diversity of media voices in the television market, then it will allow them to move forward.

Mr. Speaker, many nations prevent American companies from owning any percentage of their domestic broadcast industry. We must institute reciprocity and this bill starts this process now. Our bill will allow only those nations that will allow reciprocal ownership arrangements for American companies or individuals to move into American markets.

So this legislation will fundamentally change the economic dynamics of the broadcast industry to continue its vibrant tradition. To provide reciprocity. To help broadcasters to eliminate duplicative efforts. To make them more competitive and decrease regulation. That, Mr. Speaker, is the purpose of the bill.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 21 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

May Your blessing, O God, be with all who seek to serve in public service as elected leaders or as associates, in government service or in private endeavor. You have called each person, O gracious God, to use the talents and gifts that are theirs in ways that promote peace in our world and right attitudes

and respect in our communities and neighborhoods. May not the words of understanding and reconciliation, of esteem and awareness, of freedom and liberty be the only words that we speak with our lips, but may those good words find home in our actions and in our hearts. May Your benediction, O God, be with those in public service and with every person now and evermore. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

NATIONAL TRIO DAY

(Mr. DICKEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DICKEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to my colleagues' attention the celebration of National TRIO Day this past Saturday, February 27. National TRIO Day was designated by concurrent resolution on February 24, 1986, by the 99th Congress. It is celebrated on the last Saturday of each February.

The TRIO program is a Federal program that works. Students volunteer their time to learn about how to better educate themselves, to become more gainfully employed. Employees of TRIO are there to help them and encourage them. This is for families that have income of under \$24,000.

We need more funds for this program so that we could fill more slots across the country. There are more people who want to get in the program than we have slots available.

One last thing, I would like to commend Lindsey Burkett of my hometown of Pine Bluff. She is in the Upward Bound program at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and is the 16-year-old daughter of Nadine Burkett and the late Ray Burkett. She is a junior honor student at Dollarway High School. I want to commend her for her work and TRIO for it also.

READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

(Mr. CUMMINGS asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Read Across America Day. The National Education Association, partnering with some of the Nation's leading literacy education and community groups, is calling for every child and every community in America to celebrate reading today.

Reading is critically important as a platform for future learning. As a father of a 4-year-old, I enjoy the positive emotional charge of our reading experience as she soaks in every word and picture. We are forming her pre-reading skills, and she will enter school prepared to read.

Unfortunately, there are thousands of children in America who do not have their parents reading to them. Responsible adults must fill this gap for the sake of all of our children.

It is important that this Congress do all that it can to support and further child development from the rural communities of the heartland to the inner city of Baltimore, my home district. Today is a perfect opportunity to help all of our children reach their full potential.

CUBAN TRIAL CONVENED AGAINST FOUR DISSIDENTS WITH NO CHARGES FILED

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, for 594 days, Cuban dissidents Vladimiro Roca, Marta Beatriz Roque, Felix Bonne, and Rene Gomez Manzano have been behind Fidel Castro's prison bars, with no charges filed against them, for disseminating the document entitled, "The Homeland Belongs to All of Us," that dares to speak of counterrevolutionary beliefs, such as freedom, democracy, and human rights.

Yesterday, the regime began a kangaroo court trial behind closed doors against these four brave freedom fighters who face even more jail time. The trial of these four dissidents comes only days after the regime imposed a new law that severely punishes those who promote anti-revolutionary information.

Foreign diplomats and reporters who had expressed an interest in being present at this show trial were summarily dismissed. Foreign observers are not even allowed less than two blocks from the building in which these mock trials are being held.

On the eve of this mockery of justice, dozens of Cuban independent journalists and other dissidents, who risk their lives in an attempt to inform the international community about the reality inside Cuba, were arbitrarily arrested to prevent them from reporting on the proceedings.